

easy to understand Boulenger's transference of the family to the Heteromi, with which they have practically nothing in common.

There are two genera, *Fierasfer* and *Jordanicus*, widely distributed in tropical and temperate seas.

XXXVII.—*Two new West-African Mammals.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

(Published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.)

Mungos phœnicurus, sp. n.

A small species with the terminal pencil of the tail rich reddish.

General appearance that of the members of the *gracilis* group of the genus, apart from the red tail-tip. Colour most nearly approaching that of a pale Lake Zuai specimen of *M. gracilis*, far paler than the West-African *M. melanurus*. General colour of back approaching "clay-colour," paler and more buffy on the shoulders, more rufous on the posterior back. Head as usual greyer than back, but still with a buffy tone in it. Sides grizzled buffy. Under surface uniform buff, the throat more "cream-buff." Hands and feet dull buffy, rather darker than "cream-buff." Tail coarsely grizzled with black and buffy above, uniform ochraceous buff below; the full terminal pencil deep tawny rufous.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 330 mm.; tail 289; hind foot 61; ear 28.

Skull: condylo-basal length 68.3; zygomatic breadth 33.5; palatal length 35.4; greatest diameter of p^4 7.7.

Hab. Panyam, Bauchi Province, N. Nigeria. Alt. 4000'.

Type. Old male. B.M. no. 12. 7. 9. 2. Collected 12th February, 1912, and presented by the late Rev. G. T. Fox.

The only other known mongoose with a red tail-tip is *M. sanguineus*, Rüppell, of Kordofan, which is considerably smaller (hind foot 50–54 mm.), is lighter coloured throughout, and has the under surface white instead of buffy.

In Mr. Wroughton's monograph of this group he assigned to *M. sanguineus* an example from Suakin with the tail-tip "half chocolate-brown and half black," but the conspicuous and evidently natural red tail-tip of the N. Nigerian species leads me to think that *sanguineus* has also a really red tail-tip and that the Suakin specimen is merely one of the ordinary

gracilis type with a more or less bleached tail-tip. Examples of the true Kordofan *sanguineus* would be valuable accessions to the British Museum collection.

The type of the present handsome and distinct species was obtained by Mr. Fox shortly before his death, and was forwarded to the Museum by his brother Mr. J. C. Fox.

Kerivoula phalena, sp. n.

A small pale brown species with subequal incisors.

Size as in the smallest members of the genus. Fur long, soft, and fine; hairs of back about 7 mm. in length. General colour above uniform pale reddish brown—like "Mars-brown" of Ridgway, but much paler; the hairs of this colour all through, except that on the posterior back they have inconspicuously darker bases. Extreme tips of some of the rump-hairs silvery buff. Under surface similar but rather paler, and with more blackish at the bases of the hairs. Membranes and wings almost naked, the base and edge of the inter-femoral with thinly scattered hairs, not forming a fringe, the upper surface of the legs thinly hairy, the feet well haired.

Ears with inner margin strongly convex, a distinct concavity below the tip. Tragus slender, straight, a well-marked projection at its outer base, succeeded above by an emargination, above which there is again a projecting point, forming the broadest part of the tragus; in front of the middle of the base there is a wart clothed with long hairs, forming a loose tuft; a particularly prominent tragoid projection present facing the tragus on the inner side of the outer base of the ear.

Skull very light and delicate, with narrow brain-case. Upper incisors subequal in length, the outer rather shorter, and practically unicuspid, a small secondary cusp at the extreme posterior base of the inner one and at the internal base of the outer. First and second lower incisors tricuspid, third with a single large rounded cusp with minute anterior and posterior secondary cusps.

Dimensions of the type (the starred measurements taken in the flesh):—

Forearm 29·5 mm. (28 mm. in the male).

Head and body *33; tail *40; ear *13; third finger, metacarpus 29·5, first phalanx 12·5; lower leg and foot 18·8.

Skull: greatest length 12·1; basi-sinual length 9·1; zygomatic breadth 7·1; breadth of brain-case 6·1; front of upper canine to back of m^3 5·1.

Hab. Bibianaha, inland of Denkwa, Gold Coast. Alt. 720'.
Ann. & Mag. N. Hist. Ser. 3. Vol. x. 20

Type. Adult female. B.M. no. 12. 6. 20. 3. Original number 224. Collected 24th April, 1912, and presented by Dr. H. G. F. Spurrell. Male and female skins, female and young in spirit examined.

This delicate little *Kerivoula* belongs to Dobson's second group of the genus, and would seem to be allied to *K. lanosa* and *smithii*, but is markedly smaller than either.

Perhaps its nearest relative is the Kamerun *K. muscilla*, Thos., which is, however, distinguishable by its more inflated brain-case and its interfemoral fringe.

XXXVIII.—*Self-evisceration in the Asteroidea.*

By NATHANIEL COLGAN, M.R.I.A.

IN the considerable body of extant literature which deals with the subject of autotomy, or self-mutilation, I can find no instance on record of self-evisceration in the Asteroid section of the Echinodermata, although the existence of that curious propensity or infirmity in the Holothuroid division is well known to every student of the phylum. The following notes of observations made three years ago on some living specimens of the common *Cribella oculata* of Pennant—*Henricia sanguinolenta*, O. F. Müller—are accordingly published here in the belief that they may contain something new and may stimulate to further research.

On the 17th April, 1909, I took at low tide from the shore near Bullock, Dublin Bay, two living specimens of this species. The larger of the two was quite regular in form, with a spread of arms measuring 4 inches, the smaller, with a spread of $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, had a sixth supernumerary arm from the upper surface of which protruded a monstrous wart placed midway between the disk and the tip of the arm. In the hope that these specimens might deposit ova and so enable me to study the early stages in the development of the species, they were placed in sea-water, each in a separate dish, just deep enough to permit of the animals being fully immersed.

Four days later, on the 21st April, on examining the smaller specimen with the abnormal sixth ray, I was astonished to find that it had completely eviscerated itself. The paired dendroid pyloric cæca, closely resembling those of *Asterias rubens* as figured by Müller and Troschel, hung in festoons from the tip of each of the five normal rays,